

Outreach for Jesus 2027

Application

Term 1: Feb 1 - 11 • Term 2: Feb 15 - 25

A Few Notes:

- Applying to attend OFJ does not guarantee acceptance. Please wait until you receive your official acceptance letter before booking flights or making travel plans.
- We will need funds to purchase materials and supplies for our work projects. Please consider supporting OFJ with a donation.
- Pray that God would bless our 2027 terms and enable us to share the love of Christ with everyone we encounter.

Guidelines

Our aim is to provide a clear set of guidelines. It is a work in progress so it will be reviewed annually. Changes to the guidelines will be listed at the top of the document and then integrated into the appropriate heading. Please read this thoroughly, especially if this is your first time applying, as there is a lot of information to process.

• New for this year

1. Applications now require a minister's signature.

• Arrival and Departure

1. All arrivals must be scheduled for the first date of the term and all departures must be scheduled for the last date of the term. Finding tickets that meet these guidelines is generally not a problem—as long as you don't wait until the last minute.
2. **Arrival** flights must be scheduled to arrive at the **San Diego Airport (SAN)** before 4:00 pm.
3. **Departure** flights must be scheduled to leave from the **San Diego Airport (SAN)** after 10:00 am.
4. Your accountability to OFJ **begins** when we pick you up at the airport and **ends** when we drop you off. For those driving, it begins upon your arrival at the campground. During your entire stay, you are responsible to follow the direction of OFJ staff.
5. If you plan on extra travel before or after OFJ, a parental signature is required. A signature form will be included with your acceptance letter. Anyone found in violation of this requirement will be disqualified. OFJ cannot be held responsible for any activities outside of OFJ.

• Setup

There's important work to be done before OFJ begins to get everything ready. We're looking for a few men who are willing to help with these tasks to make the trip more enjoyable for everyone.

1. We need 5 men to arrive two days before the 1st term, which means flying into San Diego on Saturday, Jan 30.
2. If you're interested in helping, please email us. Remember that you'll be working during this time. Your accountability to OFJ begins upon arrival, and you're responsible to follow the direction of OFJ staff throughout your stay.

• Guidelines for attitude and appearance

The purpose of these guidelines is to avoid surprises. We are a moderately conservative Anabaptist Mennonite based group. We welcome anyone that will abide by these guidelines while participating in OFJ.

1. All participants must be living a victorious Christian life and be a member in good standing with an Anabaptist church of your choice. Anyone in transition between churches must have applied for church membership and have the recommendation of the pastor of the church to which you have applied.

2. The minimum age to attend OFJ is 18 years old.
3. For men: shirts must be free of pictures, logos or lettering, except for something like a company name above the front pocket. In all your dress please remember that we are to be representatives of Jesus Christ in Mexico, not some other business or social group and its styles or logos.
4. For ladies: we are requesting that a modestly sewn cape dress be worn for all activities, both work and recreation. Dresses are to be of the same material and print throughout the entire dress. There are additions without number; stylings, frills, sheer materials etc. that can be added to a cape dress, in the sleeves, hem, waist, etc. that are inconsistent with biblical modesty and simplicity. We ask for those things to be avoided.
5. All ladies must wear a head covering that is accepted by their home church for this type of trip. All head coverings should be of a sufficient size to cover the majority of the hair. Veilings are used a lot but should be the hanging style and of a non-transparent fabric that is approved by your church.
6. We expect dress clothes for Sunday services (blue jeans, pullovers, and three-button shirts are not considered dress clothes).
7. In keeping with our standards of modesty as well as to avoid causing offense to other people with different church standards, we ask that the men and ladies keep their sleeve lengths closer to the elbow than the shoulder for work and play.
8. Immodest, form-fitting clothing or other dress fads inconsistent with the basic principle of modesty will be addressed.
9. Bracelets or similar ornamental attire are not allowed.
10. No one is permitted to leave the main group except by permission or instruction by the directors.
11. Movies of any genre or format are not allowed.
12. Recorded music shall only be used for private worship. If others can hear, it's not private.
13. **Curfew is 10:30 pm. You must be in your cabin.**
14. Men and women are **not** permitted to enter each other's cabins.
15. We expect team members to work as a unit and not just hang out with close friends.

• **Dating Couples**

To promote appropriate behavior and so that everyone understands what is expected, dating couples should be aware of and observe a couple of guidelines and rules.

1. Dating couples must both be 19 years old or older to attend.
2. Unless specifically authorized by OFJ staff, do not expect to be on the same jobsite for more than 2-3 days.
3. You and your dating partner are expected to participate in group activities. Do not exclude yourself from the rest of the group for private dates. You should not expect to spend unlimited amounts of time with each other.
4. While serving under OFJ, we expect dating couples to be non-contact – no holding hands, etc.
5. For what it's worth, things done in secret in Mexico have a habit of becoming very un-secret once everyone is back home.

• **Relating to children at orphanages**

1. Caution must be used when relating to children of the opposite sex who are older than 9–10 years old. Problems have arisen due to a lack of discretion in this area. More specifics will be given onsite during orientation.
2. Do not post pictures on social media of yourself and only one child. Social Services prohibit this. All pictures with children must be of groups of children and volunteers.

• **Relating to each other**

In brief, doing God's work with a cheerful heart and seeking to bless your team members and those we encounter brings blessings and lots of fun! On the other hand, focusing primarily on yourself and a few close friends, without considering the rest of the team, can negatively affect the experience for everyone. Please choose to be a blessing and an asset to the group. It will make your time much more enjoyable and beneficial.

- **Attending both terms**

Transitioning between terms involves work. We appreciate when several people are willing to attend both terms.

1. You may apply for both terms only if you intend to attend both. Acceptance for both terms is not guaranteed and depends on available space. Applying for both terms does not increase your chances in the random selection process.
2. Remember that you will be working during this time and are responsible to follow the direction of OFJ staff throughout your entire stay.
3. You will remain in Mexico between terms. We will provide a trip or adventure as time allows.

- **Medical Expenses**

OFJ does not accept liability for medical expenses incurred while serving at OFJ.

- **Tuition**

Tuition is \$480. Do not send tuition with your application. If you are accepted, you will receive an acceptance letter with instructions on where to send tuition. Tuition is nonrefundable, except in cases where a special exception is granted.

- **Donations**

We rely on donations to fund the materials for our work projects. Here's how it works:

1. Tuition does not cover any project expenses—it only covers food, lodging and vehicle/gas/toll costs.
2. All project materials and supplies are fully funded by donations. We typically spend over \$15,000 per term, and as costs rise and project opportunities grow, that number continues to increase.
3. If you're able, please consider making a donation—and spread the word to family and friends. God will provide!
4. How to Donate:
 - Visit our website to donate through PayPal.
 - Or, mail a check to: Outreach for Jesus, 560 Rix Mills Rd, New Concord, OH 43762
 - Tax receipts are available.

- **Applications**

1. Applications open September 1.
2. All applications received between September 1-8 will receive priority consideration. Applications submitted during this first week will be treated equally and randomly selected for acceptance as space allows.
3. Applications received after September 8 will also be entered into a random selection process—but only after all first-week applications have been processed.

Example: If Susie submits her application on September 2 and Bob submits his on September 9, Susie's application will be processed first. Bob's will only be considered once all first-week applications have been processed.

4. For the random selection process, siblings and dating couples may apply together or separately. If applying together, you will have one entry in the drawing and both will be guaranteed acceptance if selected. If applying separately, each of you will have an individual entry in the drawing, but there's no guarantee that both will be accepted. To apply together, please indicate in the "Comments" section of your application who you're applying with. Even if applying together, each individual must submit their own application.
5. Applications will be reviewed, and you will be notified by email of your application status within 4-8 weeks. Please be patient during this period.
6. We reserve the right to select up to 15 applicants based on specific skills and job needs. To help us in the process, please list any relevant skills on your application.

If you decide not to attend OFJ after submitting your application, please notify us as soon as possible. There are often others waiting for a spot who would appreciate the opportunity.

- **Have a question?** Email us at ofjoffice@gmail.com

OFJ 2027 - Application Form

1. Name: _____ Male ☐ Female ☐
2. Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
3. E-mail Address: _____
4. Cell #: _____ or Home Phone #: _____
5. Birthdate: ____ / ____ / ____ 6. Occupation: _____
7. Do you have any special skills or experience that may be useful? (carpentry, electrical work, masonry, drywall, nursing, sign language, childcare, etc.) _____
8. Have you ever served as a foreman or leader of a project or work crew? If yes, please describe the type of project: _____
9. How well do you speak Spanish? _____
10. Emergency Contact (while you are in Mexico): Name: _____ Phone #: _____
11. If you are dating/courting, will your partner be attending OFJ during the same term? Yes ☐ No ☐
If yes, what is your partner's name? _____
12. Which church congregation do you attend? _____
13. Are you a communing member in good standing? Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, please explain: _____
14. I would like to attend: Term 1: Feb 1 - 11 ☐ Term 2: Feb 15 - 25 ☐
15. Comments: _____

By signing this application, I affirm that I have read and understand the preceding guidelines and agree to obey them.

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

To be completed by one of your ministry: If you believe this applicant would be an asset to this work and you support their serving at Outreach for Jesus, please sign below. Contact Nelson Burkholder 717-314-8667 with any questions.

Minister's Signature: _____ Phone #: _____

As a committee, we recognize that we cannot know everything about you based solely on this application. Therefore, we reserve the right to withdraw your acceptance if information is brought to our attention and verified that would disqualify you from being a part of our group.

Email your completed Application Form to: ofjoffice@gmail.com